

#2

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on this date in an envelope as: "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EJ736858378US addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Vicki Collins

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)

Date: May 19, 1999

(Signature of person mailing paper)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Arimilli et al.) Examiner: Unassigned
Serial No: Divisional of Serial No. 09/187,763) Attorney Docket No. 221.P1CD2
Filed: May 19, 1999)
Title: ANTIVIRAL PHOSPHONOMETHOXY)
NUCLEOTIDE ANALOGS HAVING)
INCREASED ORAL BIOAVAILABILITY)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This amendment accompanies the above referenced application.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-32.

Add the following new claim:

1. A method comprising contacting a cell with a compound of formula (1a)

